342 City buildings are, of course, varied in style, structure and
369 material and bear the general aspect of any urban settlement. -

In city homes, individual rooms serve different purposes: they are living rooms, dining rooms, bedrooms, etc. This differentiation is, however, completely absent in the peasant home, despite the ever-increasing number of rooms into which they may be divided.

Nowadays, when there is a second or even a third living room in most of the country houses, the main living room is actually used very little; it is preserved primarily for receiving guests of importance
352 or for feasting on certain family occasions. The pride of the main living room is the decorated bed (menyezeteságy, tornyosnyoszolya) which serves as a purely decorative item, being piled, in some cases to the ceiling, with eider-down quilts and pillows. Chairs are lined
354 up in front of this bed. In many homes, a furnace is built in a corner near the entrance to the room. It is a cumbrous convenience made of clay in different sizes and shapes, and whitewashed or inlaid with pottery. The most elaborate ones may be found displayed in the Trans-danubian homes. These come equipped with built-in chimney corner seats
352 (padka) long enough to sleep one person. In the corner opposite the furnace is a heavy table, with two benches along the walls. In the homes of well-to-do peasants, the table moves to the middle of the

352 room and other items, such as wardrobes and chests of drawers, are to be seen. Another characteristic feature of the main living room is the tulipántosláda, a chest painted with tulips, which serves as a place for storage or for sitting.

The furniture layout in the living room follows no set pattern; it is an efficiency room used for sleeping and general purposes. In those homes which possess but a single living room there is here a bed which is actually used to sleep in, whose appearance contrasts sharply with the decorated bed: it is short and narrow, of rudimentary fabrication, with a meagre mattress of straw or hay and some blankets.

264 352 As mentioned in Subparagraph 1p[1] all meals are, as a rule, both cooked and eaten in the peasant kitchen where a wood-burning stove furnishes the necessary heat. The kitchen furniture, often homemade, is more rudimentary than in the rest of the house.

322 Peasant furniture is now mostly manufactured and comes in vivid colors; it is occasionally painted or decorated by the local people. Nevertheless, there may still be found some old homemade, hand-painted or carved pieces.

353 The rooms are frequently decorated with gay pottery and needlework, but only well-to-do farmers have curtains at their windows.

[1] [See cat. 116, p. 142 -- Analyst]

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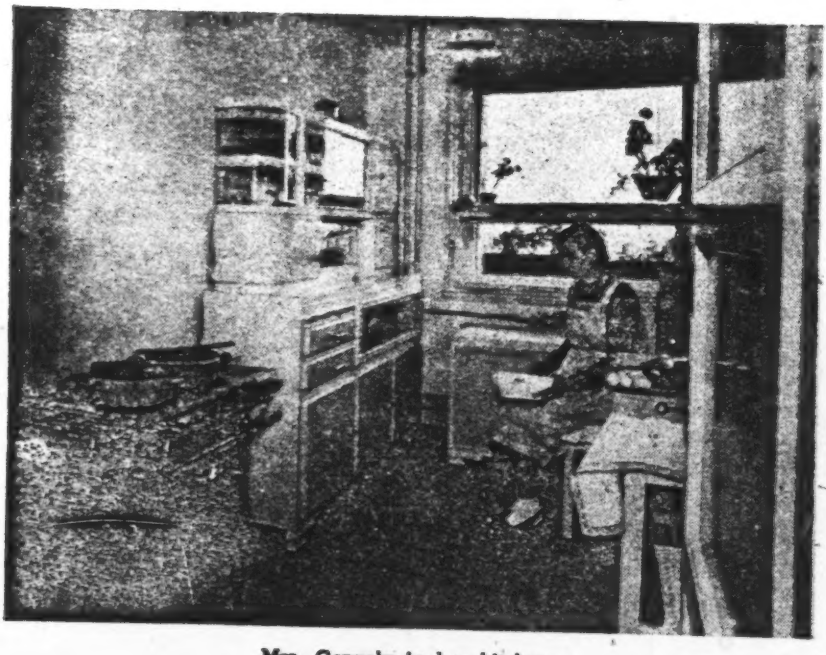

Mrs. Gergely in her kitchen.

352 And, to come back to the Gergely family, if they should
511 decide one day to move, even a large moving van would prove too small to transport all their belongings. There is the furniture of the two rooms, the kitchen furniture, a sewing machine, a radio, plenty of household utensils and crockery, curtains, carpets, pictures and books and the two children's things. Ferenc Gergely smiles, thinking of the many things he has purchased in the course of the last four to five years. He remembers the days when he had but one shirt and had to wait, shirtless, while his wife laundered it. Today the cupboards are full of clothes, underwear and linen.

000 The smile lighting up Ferenc Gergely's face whenever he remembers these things is not merely one of serene satisfaction. There is a shade of self-consciousness in it and a shade of militant pride because all this was not so easy to achieve. None of it fell, like a gift, into his